

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NASA-01 DOE-15 ACDA-12  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
SOE-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 EUR-12 HA-05  
/111 W

-----056869 312209Z /70

R 301902Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5136  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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PASS NASA, MR BARNES

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS TSPA, AR  
SUBJECT ARGENTINE LANDSAT STATION

1. COMMODORE JUAN JOSE TASSO, EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SPACE INVESTIGATIONS (CNIE) TOLD SCICOUNS YESTERDAY THAT ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL HAVE NOT YET REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON OVERLAP ISSUES RELATED TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NASA AND CNIE FOR A LANDSAT GROUND STATION.

2. COMMODORE TASSO PREPARED A DRAFT NOTE TO DR PARADA, INDE, BRAZIL CONCERNING THE UNDERSTANDING THAT BRAZIL FURNISH THE IMAGES TO OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS PARAGUAY AND BOLIVIA OF NON ARGENTINE OVERLAP TERRITORY. TASSO MENTIONED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD ONLY COVER SOUTHERN CHILE IN REGARD TO SALES OF IMAGES.

3. TASSO HAS REMINDED DR PARADA SEVERAL TIMES OF THE NEED FOR AN AGREEMENT ON THE DRAFT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT WORKING GROUP BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM INDE.

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TASSO MENTIONED THAT CNIE WOULD BE READY TO LET THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANDSAT STATION IN A FEW WEEKS AND REQUESTS THAT NASA REVIEW THE REQUIREMENTS AS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 7 IN THE CNIE/NASA MOU AND AUTHORIZE CNIE TO BUILD THE STATION. TASSO FEELS THAT ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL WILL COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING SOON BUT CNIE MUST MOVE AHEAD WITH THIS STATION SINCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN THE FUNDS

FROM THE GOA AND CNIE MUST SHOW SOME ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

4. TASSO INDICATED ARGENTINA WILL MOST LIKELY SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE WEST GERMAN MESSERSCHMITT B B CO. TO BUILD THE STATION FOR COMPLETION AT THE END OF 1979. THE GERMAN BID WAS ABOUT \$4 MILLION BELOW THE GENERAL ELECTRIC BID WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST, AND ABOUT \$1.3 ABOVE THE JAPANESE BID. HE SAID THE GE BID WAS FOR A LARGER AND MORE SOPHISTICATED STATION AND ANTENNA THAN REQUIRED BY CNIE AND FUNDS ARE VERY TIGHT. THE BENDIX CORP. WITHDREW THEIR BID.

5. ACCORDING TO TASSO THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE ARGENTINE LANDSAT STATION WILL BE CROP EVALUATION, LIVE STOCK AND PASTURE EVALUATION AND GRAZING RATE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEND A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM TO THE US PERHAPS PURDUE UNIVERSITY, FOR TRAINING IN SOILS AND AGRONOMY. EXPERIMENTS COULD THEN BE PREPARED FOR LANDSAT.

6. FOR AMEMBASSY BRASILIA: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONTACTING DR PARADA, INDE, TO INQUIRE AS TO STATUS OF JOINT CNIE/INDE AGREEMENT.

7. COMMENTS: THE EMBASSY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WAS CONTACTED BY GE REPRESENTATIVES YESTERDAY AND ASKED TO SPEAK TO ADMIRAL SANCHEZ PENA, DIRECTOR OF ARGENTINE SPACE AGENCY, ON BEHALF OF GE BID. THE GE REPS INDICATED THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GERMAN BID HAD THE INSIDE TRACK BUT THE MESSERSCHMITT B B CO. HAD NOT BUILT THIS TYPE OF LANDSAT STATION BEFORE AND CONSEQUENTLY WAS NOT EXPERIENCED. THEY FEEL THAT THE GE STATION, ALTHOUGH MORE EXPENSIVE INITIALLY, CAN SERVE THE ARGENTINE REQUIREMENTS MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EVEN MORE ECONOMICALLY IN THE LONG RUN. GE FEELS THEY WOULD BE SACRIFICING A QUALITY JOB WITH THE GERMAN BUILT STATION. EMBASSY FEELS THAT THIS IS PURELY A COST PROBLEM FOR THE ARGENTINES; ALTHOUGH GE IS WORRIED THAT ARGENTINE RESENTMENT AT FAILURE TO DELIVER CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS COULD BE A FACTOR. THE SPACE COMMISSION WAS ONLY GIVEN ABOUT \$6 MILLION FOR THE JOB AND MUST WORK WITHIN THEIR RANGE. THEY WOULD MUCH RATHER DO BUSINESS WITH A US FIRM; AND FOR THIS REASON, WERE SURPRISED THAT BENDIX WITHDREW. WE DO NOT FEEL THIS DECISION HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS MENTIONED BY GE REPS. IN ANY EVENT, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WILL PRESENT GES CASE TO SPACE AGENCY BEFORE FINAL DECISION IS MADE.  
CASTRO

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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